

SHERMAN'S

MILITARY GAZETTE

A Weekly Chronicle of the Fire Department, Military, Masonic, Turk, Field Sports, Regattas, Hunting, Angling, Theatrical, and General News of California.

VOL. VI—NO 23,

SAN FRANCISCO: SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 6, 1885.

WHOLE NO. 153.

CHARLES M. CHASE, Proprietor.

OUR TASK—TO ENLIGHTEN.

TERMS: One Year, \$5; Six Months, \$3.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY
BY CHARLES M. CHASE.
AT SHERMAN'S BUILDING,
North East corner Clay and Montgomery streets,
TERMS FIFTY CENTS PER MONTH.

THE FIREMAN'S JOURNAL AND MILITARY GAZETTE is published every Saturday morning, and served to City Subscribers at Fifty Cents per month, payable to the Carriers. It will also be mailed for six months for \$3.00 or \$5.00 a year payable in advance.

All Communications, connected with the Editorial department, to be addressed to the editor, post paid—on business to the Publishers.

No attention whatever will be paid to anonymous communications. Any person wishing articles published in the "Journal" must accompany them with the name of the author.

Advertisements will be inserted at the lowest rates. All descriptions of Job Printing attended to promptly.

Who would believe that our usually quiet and good-natured "Lemon Peel" was such a Tartar? Hear how he "goes and flies out" at our charming correspondent "Alma Raymond," for her hit of last week at "Lemon Peel and Parnassus." Our word for it, however, that the young gentleman will catch it before he finds the controversy concluded, and rue the day when he touched the tender feelings of our lady correspondent:

(From the New York Leader.)

LEMON PEEL-IANA.
It seems that some fair maid
Emboldened by her glances
Of spirit, real or would-be,
Has straddled our Parnassus;
But who could keep her seat,
Got thrown off, or in some manner
Was unhorsed, and now finds fault
With my Lemon Peel-iana.

Were she mine, I think I'd try—
Even though inclined to wheedle—
To much to her when she dines,
At her wash-tub or her needle,
The muse at whom she growls
Who with "cold disdain" did scan her,
Showed her sense by letting down
This new Lemon Peel-iana.

It must not be expected
That I'm a woman-hater,
For that I think to be
Against all human nater.
There's nothing that I love,
Next to a good Havana,
Better than a quiet maid,
And my Lemon Peel-iana.

For were I a rich Mormon,
A Turk, or a Greek, or a mogul,
I'd build a Crystal Palace,
And of such ones cram it full.
With the fairest I would mate,
Could I manage to trepan her,
And I'd take with each day's sun
A new Lemon Peel-iana.

I'd have my couriers out
To search the loquacious round,
And the telegraph should tell me
Where beauty could be found.
If she "went back" on the muses
I'd try "Varsoviense."
And dance her in my cock
A fresh Lemon Peel-iana.

In case there was a row,
From the loquacious getting jealous,
I'd set the thing all right,
Introduce a crowd of fellows.
I'll guarantee that each,
Unless her sense outran her,
Would take her in my cock
From her Lemon Peel-iana.

The maiden who found fault
With Thalia's kind attention,
Shouldn't come inside the door,
She'd create, I know, discussion.
Revolt would soon prevail,
A red pinstriped banner,
She'd be crying love or blood,
No more Lemon Peel-iana.

Should she stand this Lemon-ade,
I'll know she's all in a row,
So with this I'll let her run,
Let I might rue this hour.
As she isn't mine as yet,
And I've no chance to tan her,
I'll pass her 'til I hear
From this Lemon Peel-iana.

MY FIRST BUCK.

'Come, shall we go and kill us venison.'—As You Like It.

After all, sensations are the things that make life worth the living; and we are all seeking new ones every day. Why do we hunt out strange places, queer adventures, and hitherto undiscovered pleasures, if it is not for the novelty of the sensations they afford us? And how sweet, in these after days, is the memory of some accidental half hour, or even of some fitting moment of long ago, which afforded us a new and rare feeling of happiness never to be forgotten? Who does not remember his first boots, his first "beaver," his first gun, his first baby—and, rarest and most original of all beginnings, who does not remember his first buck? Not I, for one, for the memory of the happy event still cheers me through the dark days of life—comforts me during financial panics, and sustains my spirits in commercial crises. Let us talk about it.

For hours I had followed through the forest the traces of the flying deer. It was a cold, gloomy day, and the dead leaves far and wide were covered with a light fall of snow. I had started out at early dawn, and after searching for a couple of hours through the oak openings, had at last come upon a trail that suited me; one that promised venison. I had hunted deer before, and had seen them killed by others; but up to that 16th of November, it had never been my fortune to draw trigger upon any game larger or more noble than the red fox of the swamps. And now, for the first time, I found myself pursuing, alone through the wild forest, a track of living deer. While in company with

older sportsmen, I had learned enough of woodcraft to feel confidence in my ability to follow a trail properly, I may almost say artistically; and now that I was responsible to one but myself for finding the game, I embraced the enterprise with an ardor and a self-reliance never before experienced.

The foot-prints of the deer were large, even, deep, and at such regular intervals apart, as to show that he had passed at a gentle trot. After following them for about fifteen minutes, their character changed sufficiently to indicate that the pace had gradually subsided into a walk. Then they began to wander—to run and return irregularly, as if seeking some place of repose, and finally led directly towards a thicket of alder bushes, as if that were the looked-for locality. A moment was spent in reconnoitering, and then my heart beat quickly, as I crept cautiously towards the spot where I felt sure the wily quarry lay concealed. Softly, slowly, gently,—crack! It sounded in my ear like the report of a six-pounder; but it was nothing but the breaking of a dry twig beneath my foot. It was enough, however. A rustle, a bound, and the startled animal stood before me not fifty yards distant, a little to the left of the thicket, and seeming to gaze in every direction at once. How immense he looked! and how I trembled. In vain, I tried to raise my rifle—the clouded barrel vibrated in my hand like a mariner's needle, to which the "horned monarch of the waste" was anything but the pole. Suddenly, his eye caught mine. Uttering what sounded like a half whistle of astonishment, he stamped his dainty feet, looked, started, turned, and looked again, and as I almost unwittingly raised the rifle, he bounded high into the air, and then disappeared as if by magic into the cover at the instant the report of the piece recalled me to my senses.

At what reproaches—what absolute remorse for my foolish excitement crowded upon my mind.

There he had stood, offering me a fair shot in the open, and after shaking like a boy with the ague, I had fired, and missed him. Yes, missed him! There were no signs of a hit—no cuttings of short hair upon the snow—no drops of crimson—no inequality in the tracks; but away they led to the northward, clearing evenly, after the first few leaps of surprise, eight paces at a stride, and suggestive of a journey to Canada. Carefully was the rifle reloaded, and the bullet driven home with quick and passionate strokes of shame; and then away, away beside those far-reaching foot-prints, which seemed to ridicule my failure and to mock my speed.

Away, past the oaks and alders; across marshes, through swamps, over fallen timber, beneath ragged branches, and beyond the tall tamaracs, those traces led, and their wide spaces undiminished, and their far-reaching line seen through the forest openings, almost shutting out all hope, until it seemed as if my soul were vainly pursuing a lost idea, and all belief in frightened deer and trembling fingers vanished from my mind. Away, through silent valleys and desolate places, until my head grew dizzy, and my very heart grew faint. Still on through the painful silence of the woods, until I felt like one compelled to hunt invisibly forever. And now a new feeling gradually possessed my soul. It seemed as if some being were on my traces, following me with stealthy steps, spying after me behind dead trees, creeping silently through the thicket, gliding at me through the lonesome leaden air, and still following inevitably upon my trail, till, panting with terror, and not daring to look over my shoulder at the phantom, I too bounded away, keeping on the lone deer's track for very company's sake, and feeling thankful for it in that loneliness.

In my terror, I noticed it not, but the tired chase had gradually slackened his pace to a walk, and at last had lain him down beneath some bushes, from which reissued the sound of my fear-impelled footsteps had roused him. The traces of his nest and of his new flight recalled me to my reason. Then I grew stronger—I felt, too, a feeling of sympathy for the frightened deer, and thinking him for his example, lay down exhausted in his lately deserted lair. The place bore the impress of his form, and almost felt warm to me, as I took possession of it, and closed my eyes to rest from my frightful race.

A feeling of cold awakened me; and at first I failed to recollect my whereabouts. Soon the trees, the rifle, and most of all, those never-ending footprints in the snow, recalled the story of my failure and my fright. The forest seemed more sombre than before; but the sleep had refreshed me, and that gave me glimmerings of hope. Looking carefully at the lock of my gun, and arranging my disordered dress, I glanced a moment at the heavens, set my teeth, and recommenced the hunt. The frightful fancies—children of solitude—did not return; but in their places came hunger, own brother to starvation. Visions of rich venison-steaks, roasted saddles, and savory hams filled my brain, and stimulated me to new efforts in the chase. The tracks turned westward, then to the south, then east. Still I plodded after them—tired, hungry, and cold—wearing out, half-frozen, half-starved; on, still on, hour after hour. After a while, the country became gradually familiar. A haystack in the marsh—a half-fenced fence line through the swamp—a pile of logs upon the uplands; all indicated the neighborhood of dwellings—of home. Home, yes, I would soon be there; but—and I shook my rifle—not without a deer.

Poor deer! his footprints, like my own, had grown straggling and uneven. Here he had stopped to snatch a bit of moss—there he had turned aside to lie down among the alders. At this place he sought the water-course to moisten his parched mouth; and yonder, in leaping the fallen tree, his feet limbs hung heavily, and the weary feet dragged long lines upon the traitorous snow. All these things and more the tell-tale tracks revealed to me; and I could almost see him, tongue out, and head drooping, struggling along upon his doomed journey. At last, I did see him, and exactly as I had imagined; but too far for lead to reach him. He was entering a thicket, and would doubtless soon lie down. To get to leeward of him, I made a great circuit in the woods, and when the sought-for point was reached, finding that the track had not led beyond the thicket, I crept cautiously towards it, watched and listened, waited, and thought of Job. One, two, three—the heart beat strong, but regular, and the hand was still as death. Then came the approach, step by step, slowly, surely. A dry bush rattled, and the truant heart leaped quick; but only for an instant. Memory shamed it into quiet; and then the branches parted, and, maddened into a final struggle for life, anthers black, and white flag flying, out rushed the mighty deer. No buck-fewer now. A marble-like feeling of "manifold destiny" came over me, and held my breath suspended. Rapidly and steadily the rifle rose: one quick glance along the sight to catch the shoulder-point—still movement of the right fore-finger. By Jove, what a bound he made! and the white tail fell like the pennant of a vanquished animal. Another bound; would he never return to earth again? A third; and he down he plunged headlong upon the ground, his long neck stretching far in front—his struggling feet writing his epitaph upon the blood-spinkled snow.

That was a long while ago. Since then many deer have fallen to my rifle before bounds, and on deep lakes, in oak openings, and upon broad clearings. I have known other pleasures, too; have twice escaped sudden death, and once won the odds on the Leger; but it is my firm conviction that the most delicious moment of my life was that spent in reloading my rifle after the shot just described. Disappointment, hunger, fatigue, were all forgotten in a feeling of pure, unmitigated satisfaction never experienced before or since. I could not take my eyes away from the fallen deer; and when the keen blade had given the finishing blow, and the noble prey lay dead and beautiful at my feet, and I stood leaning on my rifle looking down upon him, then, and not till then, a shade of sentiment at his death softened the bright glare of joy, and I involuntarily sighed to think that that experience was exhausted—that I never again could find, follow, and overcome another First Buck.—Porter's Spirit.

BANK OF ENGLAND NOTES.—A Bank of England note has been found and interesting characteristics of manufacture, the paper being distinguished by its color, which is a peculiar white, such as is neither sold in shops nor used for any other purpose; by its thickness and transparency, qualities which prevent any of the printed part of the note being washed out by turpentine or removed by the knife unless a hole is made in the place thus protected on; by its characteristic feel, a peculiar crispness and toughness by which those accustomed to handle it distinguish the true notes instantly; the wire or water mark, which is produced on the paper when in a state of pulp, and which is easily distinguished from a mark stamped on after the paper is completed; the three "deckle" edges—the mould contains two notes placed lengthwise, which are separated by a knife at a future stage of the process—this deckle or wooden frame of the paper mould producing the peculiar effect seen on edges of uncut paper, and this edging being caused when the paper is in a state of pulp, precludes any successful imitation after the paper is made; also, by the strength of the paper, which is made from new linen and cotton. In its water leaf or unsize condition a bank note will support thirty-six pounds and when one grain of size has been diffused through it, it will bear a hundred pounds. The Bank of England never re-issues a note. It issues only new notes, and no note below £5 or £24.

EX-PRESIDENT FILLMORE'S FINANCE.—The lady who is expected to make Mr. Fillmore "the happiest old man" on the 11th of February next, is a Mrs. McIntosh, a woman distinguished for a great variety of charms, solid as well as transitory. Her former husband made a fortune in the crockery business in Albany, and was President of the Albany and Schenectady Railroad during the last three years preceding the consolidation.

RATHER "HIGH" PEOPLE.—Byrne, a famous Irish giant, who died in London some few years since, measured eight feet two inches. Cornelius McGrath, who died in the year 1790, measured seven feet eight inches. Edward Malone, another Irishman, was seven feet eight inches, and was nearly equal in nature and size to Daniel Cardanus, a Swedish giant. Dr. Cholesterol, the famous anatomist, speaks of a skeleton discovered in a Roman camp, near St. Albans, England, which he judged to have been eight feet four inches. Goliath, of Gath, according to Bishop Cumberland, was eleven feet high, and Maximilian, the emperor, was nine feet high.

An elastic frame house collar, the invention of an Englishman named Williams, is said to possess a degree of pliancy and elasticity which saves the distressing action on the skin of the working-men, which so often chafes the neck and shoulders.

IS FRIDAY AN "UNLUCKY DAY"?—The year 1858 begins and ends on Friday. January, April, July, October and December, have five Fridays each. April and December end on Friday, and January and October begin on Friday. There are fifty-three Fridays in the year. We trust, however, it will not prove more disastrous than 1857.

A London paper suggests that the celebrated Mr. Spurgeon be engaged to preach to the Levitts—that the obstinate monster that refuses to be launched—he has had greater practice than anybody of the present day in "moving great masses."

The Unlucky Present.

A Lanarkshire minister, who died within the present century, was one of those unhappy persons who, to use the words of a well-known Scottish adage, "can never see green cheese but their een reek." He was extremely covetous, and that not only of nice articles of food, but of many other things which do not generally excite the cupidity of the human heart. The following story is in corroboration of this assertion. Being on a visit one day at the house of one of his parishioners, a poor lonely widow, living in a moorland part of the parish, he became fascinated by the charms of the little cast-iron pot, which happened at the time to be lying on the hearth, full of potatoes for the poor woman's dinner, and that of her children. He had never in his life seen such a nice little pot—it was a perfect conceit of a thing—it was a gem—no pot on earth could match it in symmetry—it was an object altogether perfectly lovely.

"Dear sake! minister," said the widow, quite overpowered by the reverend man's commendations of her pot, "if ye like the pot see weel as a' that, I beg ye'll let me send it to the manse. It's a dind o' worra (superbious) pot w'us; for we're a bigger ane, that we use for ordinar, and that's mair convenient every way for us. Sae ye'll just tak a present o' it. I'll send it o'er the morn' w' Jamie, when he gangs to the schule."

"Oh!" said the minister, "I can by no means permit you to be at so much trouble. Since you are so good as to give it to me, I'll just carry it home with me in my hand. I'm so much taken with it, indeed, that I would really prefer carrying it myself."

After much altercation between the minister and the widow on this delicate point of politeness, it was agreed that he should carry home the pot himself.

Off then he trudged, bearing this curious little culinary article, alternately in his hand and under his arm, as seemed most convenient to him. Unfortunately the day was warm, the way long, and the minister fat, so that he became heartily tired of his burden before he got half way home. Under these distressing circumstances, it struck him that if instead of carrying the pot awkwardly on one side of his person, he were to carry it on his head, the burden would be greatly lightened, the principles of natural philosophy, which he had learned at college, informing him that when a load presses directly and immediately upon any object it is far less than when it hangs at the remote end of a lever. Accordingly doffing his hat, which he resolved to carry home in his hand and having applied his handkerchief to his brow he clapped the pot in inverted fashion upon his head, where, as the reader may suppose, it figured much like Mambrino's helmet upon the crazed capital of Don Quixote, only a great deal more magnificent in shape and dimensions. There was at first much relief and much comfort in this new mode of carrying the pot; but mark the result. The unfortunate minister having taken a by-path to escape observation found himself, when still a good way from home under the necessity of leaving over a ditch which intercepted him in passing from one field to another. He jumped but surely no jump was ever taken so completely in, or at least into the dark as this. The concussion given to his person in descending, caused the helmet to become a hood, the pot slipped down over his face, and resting with the rim upon his neck, stuck fast there, enclosing his whole head as completely as ever that of a newborn child was enclosed by the filmy bag which nature, as an indication of future good fortune, sometimes invests the noddles of her favorite offspring. What was worst of all the nose which had permitted the pot to slip down over it withstood every desperate attempt, on the part of its proprietor, to make it slip back again, the contracted part, or neck of the pattern, being of such a peculiar formation as to cling fast to the base of the nose, although it found no difficulty in gliding along its hypochondrium.

Was ever minister in a worse plight? Was there ever contempt so unlucky? Did ever any man—did ever any minister, so effectually hoodwink himself, or so thoroughly shut his eyes to the plain light of nature? What was to be done? The place was lonely; the way difficult and dangerous; human relief was remote, almost beyond reach. It was impossible even to cry for help; or if a cry could be uttered, it might reach in deafening reverberation the ear of the utterer, but it would not travel twelve inches farther in any direction. To add to the distresses of the case, the unhappy sufferer soon found great difficulty in breathing. What with the heat occasioned by the beating of the sun on the metal, and what with the frequent return of the same heated air to his lungs, he was in the utmost danger of suffocation. Everything considered, it seemed likely that, did he not chance to be relieved by some accidental wayfarer there would soon be death in the pot.

The instinctive love of life, however, is omnipotent; and even very stupid people have been found, when put to the push by strong and imminent peril, to exhibit a degree of presence of mind, and exert a degree of energy, far above what might have been expected from them, or what they were ever known to exhibit or exercise under ordinary circumstances. So it was with the pot-encased minister. Pressed by the urgency of his distresses, he fortunately recollected that there was a smith's shop at the distance of about a mile across the fields, where,

if he could reach it before the period of suffocation, he might possibly find a relief. Deprived of his eyesight, he acted only as a man of feeling and went on as cautiously as he could, with his hat in his hand. Half crawling, half sliding over ridge and furrow, ditch and hedge, somewhat like Satan floundering over chaos, the unhappy minister travelled with all possible speed, as nearly as he could guess, in the direction of the place of refuge. I leave it to the reader to conceive the surprise, the mirth, the infinite amusement of the smith and all the hangers on of the smithy, when at length, torn and worn, faint and exhausted, blind and breathless, the unfortunate man arrived at the place, and let them know, rather by signs than by word the heath, full of potatoes for the poor woman's dinner, and that of her children. He had never in his life seen such a nice little pot—it was a perfect conceit of a thing—it was a gem—no pot on earth could match it in symmetry—it was an object altogether perfectly lovely.

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Atlantic Fire Items.

NEW YORK.

THE KEMP FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.—The Association of Exempt Firemen held their regular fifteenth annual meeting on Jan. 23d. Philip W. Engle, Esq., the President, in the chair. After the usual routine business was transacted, the Association was organized for the year 1885, by the election of the following officers: President, Philip W. Engle; Vice Presidents, Zophar Mills, A. Ockerhausen, Recording Secretary, G. Wheeler; Financial Secretary, Francis Hagadorn; Treasurer, Jos. M. Price; Fire Department Delegates, J. L. Smith, A. M. Turnbull.

The N. Y. Leader of Jan. 23d, says: We are pleased to find that our old acquaintance, David T. Van Orden, Esq., has been selected for Senior Engineer for the three year term. David is evidently a favorite in the Department of his adopted city as shown by the vote he received, being one hundred more than the next highest. Mr. Van Orden was elected Engineer one year ago, since which the law has been altered, making the election of First Assistant for three years, the Second for two, and the Third for one year. Mr. V. was formerly connected with Engine Co. 18 of this city, and has been a favorite in the Department of this city, as a member of that company. At the time of his first election as Engineer a number of friends presented him with a splendid fire cap. The news of his re-election is certainly a gratification to those friends.

The story that the Hall Bell New York was cracked, is a hoax. The Leader was sold and thus grunts out an apology.

Mayor Tiemann made a sad mistake when he reported those bell ringers. The daily papers last week stated the story that the Hall Bell was cracked. To make sure of the thing we inquired of one of the ringers, "What's the matter with the Hall Bell?" "Nothing," only a hole in it about four inches in diameter," was the reply. We took it for granted that the bell was broken, and so stated. On Saturday, after the paper was in the hands of the firemen, the bell-ringer only informed us that the hole he had reference to was that which the bolt went through that held the bell. Had we demanded, but the sound of the bell in a good tone as ever has put us in good humor, and we freely forgive him.

Americus Engine Company ("Big Six") has resumed active duty. Mr. Wm. Aspinck acts as Foreman and Wm. Dunly as Assistant Foreman.

The annual ball of the N. Y. Fire Department, took place on the evening of Jan. 8th. From the Mercury's account which we copy below it must have been a magnificent affair:

The annual ball of the New York Fire Department took place at the Academy of Music, on Monday evening last. As was anticipated by the several committees, and the department generally, it proved to be the most brilliant affair of the season and in a pecuniary point of view, the most lucrative one yet held. At about 8 o'clock the throng began to fill the passage leading to the main hall, and carriage after carriage deposited its richly attired occupants upon the sidewalk in front. Such a thing as "walking to the door" was considered decidedly vulgar, and scarcely a dozen couples appeared upon that infatigable and over-working pony "shank's mare." On entering, the first brilliancy that caught the eye was the magnificence of the decorations and the "pretty faces," rich blondes, and garlands of flowers that formed *ensemble*. To give some idea of "the style" that presented itself, we will say that we counted no less than twenty-seven white satin dresses upon the floor, not including the many that remained unobserved in the circle.

The parquet, including the whole of the stage, was converted into an immense space for those who "tripped it on the light fantastic toe." At the rear of the stage the words "New York Fire Department," shown out in its usual brilliancy, in letters a thing as "walking to the door" was considered decidedly vulgar, and scarcely a dozen couples appeared upon that infatigable and over-working pony "shank's mare." On entering, the first brilliancy that caught the eye was the magnificence of the decorations and the "pretty faces," rich blondes, and garlands of flowers that formed *ensemble*. To give some idea of "the style" that presented itself, we will say that we counted no less than twenty-seven white satin dresses upon the floor, not including the many that remained unobserved in the circle.

The engine weighs five tons but does not appear cumbersome. This engine it will be seen from the above boats will be a fine piece of machinery, and will perform an equal amount of labor would be of advantage to this city.

A TASTY AFFAIR.—Rescue Hook and Ladder Co. of Utica, have had the prototypes of the members taken, and placed in a beautiful frame, surmounted with a miniature of the truck. Below the truck, hanging partly over the picture, are many of the members' names, books, pipes, etc. On each upper corner is a model fire cap of the style worn by the company; on the lower corner is a hydrant, with hose attached, stretching gracefully over the frame. In the centre of the lower part of the frame is a beautiful model hose cart. It is said to be a very beautiful affair. The frame was made in New York.

JERSEY CITY.—The Fire Department of Jersey City is looking up. New houses are to be built for Liberty Engine Co. 1, and Pacific Hose Co. 4. The house for No. 1 is to be fine brick, three stories high, brown stone front, and with all the modern improvements. A goddess of liberty is to adorn the top. The Pacific Co. will have a house of a similar construction.

MR. EVERETT.—The Eve. Post, in the course of a notice of Mr. Everett's recent appearance before a New York audience, makes this reference to the personal appearance of the gifted orator:

Mr. Everett looks as young as he has at any time for the past fifteen years. The about, satirical gray hair which curls about his head has not changed its hue, and his light blue eyes wear the half-melancholy expression which belongs to men of his temperament who have been constantly burdened by important cares. His voice is in character, and has a rich, plaintive, musical tone, as of a man calling from some lamentable solitary place remote from human sympathy. His action was less violent, (if we may use such an epithet) less Chateausque, and more in accordance with late years. The tremulous vibration of the hands was no longer observed, nor, in telling how Marlborough's "pocketed" the pay of his poor and brave soldiers, did he slap his pocket in the same pronounced manner as on the former delivery. These remarks, tho' freely made, of course, do not proceed from any disrespect for the orator, whose peerless gifts challenge the most fastidious scrutiny from his hearer.

A RAT ADVENTURE.—The New Bedford Standard says: "Sometime since, a lady on this side while dressing for church, thought that she felt something moving between her dress and skirt, but after shaking them, paid no more attention to the circumstance, until seated in her pew at church, when she felt a rat upon the floor, much to the consternation of several other ladies in the pew. It commenced running from one end of the pew to the other, and at last was lost sight of—pre-supposing it had escaped into the aisle. The first named lady upon arriving home, was in the act of changing her dress for another, when upon shaking it out she felt the rat, having made the trip to church and back in safety."

PHILADELPHIA.

The Delaware Engine Company have recently had constructed for them a new and powerful spouting engine.

Chief Engineer Pearson, has consented to the request of the Schuylkill Hose Company to become a candidate for Chief. Mr. David M. Lyle of Fairmount Engine Company has also been nominated for Chief, by Empire Hook and Ladder Co.

Hops Engine Company have lately housed a beautiful new crab.

The Fireman's Journal

AND MILITARY GAZETTE.

MARCUS D. BORUCK, Editor
SAN FRANCISCO
SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1858.

For Military Matters see third page.

There is an office much needed in the community; a need daily aggravated by the slight, perihelical and unsubstantial character of the habitations of many of our citizens, the carelessness of the occupants, and the insufficient provision made by the city authorities against fire. In spite of the terrible warnings which have been given from year to year, this state of affairs still continues. The same kind of buildings are constantly being constructed, the same carelessness in the use of fire daily exhibited, and the same neglect in providing means for preventing the natural consequences. Indeed the wonder is, not that the city has been from time to time visited by fierce and terrible conflagrations, but rather that they have not been more frequent, and more ruinous and devastating in their effects. In fact the immunity of the city from great disasters from the destroying element, has hitherto been owing almost entirely to the efforts of a Fire Department, which for good government, discipline and efficiency, is without a parallel in any other city. But however excellent this organization may be, and however reliable its operations for the safety of the commonwealth, it is not right that the whole burden of insuring that safety should devolve solely upon it. Its power and activity should be assisted and promoted by every citizen household. It is not to be supposed that any one would willfully construct slight or unsafe habitations, or set fire to them; the natural impulses of humanity would prevent anything of this kind. Yet many through sheer thoughtlessness and carelessness, display a course of conduct, whose effects are often as ruinous, as those which spring from the most utter depravity; and which might be checked, perhaps entirely prevented by a timely warning. The office of a City Fire Inspector would therefore be peculiarly useful. It should be his duty to watch, and in some measure superintend the construction of any building which he observes in process of erection, see, in case the materials are of wood, or such combustible nature, that the foundations are laid at a sufficient distance from surrounding buildings; that the walls, floors, and roofs are strongly and firmly fastened and supported; the chimneys of proper size, and so arranged and protected as not to endanger the surrounding wood-work. It might be also in his province to see that abundant wells, pumps, or cisterns, are in a convenient neighborhood, and that they are in a good and serviceable condition. If the building is of brick or stone, he should see that the walls were of suitable thickness, the floors and roofs properly supported and protected. If there were to be flues, pipes, or conduits, for the passage of hot air or gas throughout the edifice, that they were so arranged as to preclude all danger from their use. During the progress of the building, he could make such suggestions as he thought proper, in accordance with these requisites, and he should have power to compel the adoption of his suggestions; and thus every house might start with a fair promise of enjoying comparative safety from the attacks of the dreaded enemy. If in spite of all his precautions, a habitation or storehouse should chance to be destroyed, he should immediately afterwards visit the scene of the fire, inquire into its causes, and if his investigations should lead him to believe if the work of an incendiary, he should be endowed with sufficient police power to substitute a search for the offender, and for that purpose be empowered to call in the assistance of the regular police. In case of the arrest of the suspected person, he should deliver him into the custody of the constituted authorities, and make his complaint to the Grand Jury; and at the trial for the offence, should have the power to compel the attendance of such witnesses as he might think necessary, in order to procure a conviction. He should assist in some measure, the Chief Engineer, where the duties of the respective offices might not conflict, as in examining the condition of the public cisterns, and of the engines, hose, and furniture of the different fire companies. He might also have a general supervision of all the houses of the city, and whenever he saw a stove pipe or chimney whose position or condition endangered property, he should warn the occupant of the house to which it belonged of the fact, and in case his warning was unnoticed, he should summon such occupant before the authorities to suffer the penalty that the laws award for his neglect. He should at certain intervals make full reports of his observations to the Board of Supervisors, calling their attention to such matters as he should deem important and necessary for the safety of the city. Such other duties and powers might be accorded to this office, as those creating it might deem meet and expedient, and which may perhaps have been omitted in the above brief and cursory enumeration. It seems that it should be only necessary to mention the name of this office and the various means of usefulness, to suggest the propriety of its immediate creation. A Fire Inspector would in fact be a kind of guardian of the Commonwealth, an out-guard; not to give the alarm when the enemy attacks, but to prevent its approach. An officer of this nature under the name of Fire Coroner, has been some time in active and efficient operation in New York, and has every year added to his estimation in the hearts of his fellow citizens. The report of the Fire Inspector of Baltimore, which we have lately read, gives a lively idea of the usefulness of such an office, when its functions are discharged by a judicious and efficient officer. As it is too often the custom of the Moderns to search among the Antients for the prototype of almost every good institution known to them, it may perhaps be gratifying to know, that Tarquin, soon after the first great fire of Rome, established many excellent fire regulations; and constituted an officer called a Fire Censor, whose duties, allowing for the difference in times, were almost identical with those set forth in this article, as belonging to a City Fire Inspector.

Judge Rager.

Editor Fireman's Journal.—In your leading editorial of Saturday last, I was sorry to find an ungenerous fling at Judge Hager, upon his decision in the mandamus case. The Judge, if I understand him correctly, did not decide against Mr. Whitney's claim to the office, nor did he give the opinion imparted to him. He granted a mandamus compelling the Board of Delegates to act, but referred the prayer of the relator. This was very properly done, for it is a sound legal maxim that a writ of mandamus cannot issue to compel the performance of a special act, but is only given in a general sense. His intimation that he could not punish the defaulting members for contempt was not volunteered, but drawn out in reply to an interrogatory of counsel. Again you say, the "law and the evidence made it clear to and imperative upon him to issue the order," &c. Are you aware that there was no evidence taken before him? And yet such is the case. By what evidence was he to decide? Certainly not that taken before the Board, for it was not offered. No oral testimony was given, and hence, Mr. Editor, you undoubtedly indicted your article without a true knowledge of the facts of the case.

Judge Hager's decision will stand as law and common-sense in any tribunal in the world, and however much I might disagree with him in his individual opinions, I am compelled thus feebly to give evidence to the correctness of this judicial act. If he had granted the mandamus as asked, the precedent would have been set for one court to grant a mandate to a jury of another tribunal, compelling them to agree upon a verdict. Suppose Mr. Nottman's counsel had asked Judge Norton to issue his mandate to compel Judge Hager to give his opinion in favor of Mr. N. ? Would that be right? Could it be done? Most unquestionably; and yet you, forsooth, say that Judge Hager should thus prominently write himself down a ninnny!

JUSTICE.

BALTIMORE.—We are indebted to our attentive Baltimore correspondent "Zephyr," for the semi-annual report of the Fire Inspector of that city. From it we glean the following statistics: Total number of alarms for the six months ending January 1st 1858, 119. False alarms 34; Incendiarious 85; Carelessness, 22; Accident, 28; Other causes, 42; Number of dwellings burned 146; other destruction of tenements destroyed 160; number of two story brick buildings burned 119; one story bricks 62; two story frames 32; one story frames 32. He concludes as follows:

"I cannot close this report without speaking in terms of strong commendation of the Fire Department of our city. Through all the trying scenes of the past, they have acted in the most praiseworthy, able and efficient manner. There is no class of our citizens so watchful, so vigilant and so self-sacrificing as the firemen, always ready to obey the call of duty and humanity. They have rendered me much timely and valuable aid, and I take this occasion to thus publicly return them my acknowledgments."

The Inspector is Mr. F. H. B. Boyd, an active fireman, and an officer of the Mechanical Engine Company, the oldest fire organization in the city.—Mr. B. is also a mechanic and builder, and brings great experience to the office. Next week we shall have something to say, relative to the establishment of such an office in San Francisco.

MANHATTAN 2.—The repairs to the "White Ghost" having been completed, she was delivered over to the Manhattan on Monday last. She has been thoroughly repaired and beautifully painted, and looks as good as new. We hope that soon as practicable, steps will be taken to procure a new engine for this company. A body of men who will patiently bear such an infliction as the "Hay Wagon," for so long as No. 2 have, are entitled to some consideration.

We learn that Worth the builder of Empire No. 1, will agree to build an engine for \$3,000 which will be acceptable to the company. He also thinks that the old engine can be used so as to pay \$2,000 to be drawn from the Fire Department Fund.—We trust that at the earliest moment, the proper movement will be made to place this company on a good footing in the department.

A BAD CISTERN.—The cistern at the corner of Mission and Anthony street, is in a miserable condition, and the Chief Engineer is endeavoring to induce the citizens in the immediate neighborhood to contribute sufficient funds to have it thoroughly cleaned and rebuilt. The cistern is supplied by a never failing spring, and being once put in order can always be depended upon for a full supply of water. The expense of re-building, cleaning out, etc., will amount to about six hundred dollars, which of course must be borne by the property adjacent, as the Board of Supervisors have decided, that it is illegal for them to expend money to fill cisterns, etc. The citizens in the vicinity mentioned above, should not hesitate to contribute liberally towards this object. The very safety of their homes depend upon it. The houses in that section are all built of the most inflammable material and should a fire get headway from want of water, the extent of damage would be fearful. We trust in the coming week, sufficient funds will be subscribed to justify the Chief in immediately commencing the work.

BELL TOWER.—Mr. David Johnson a well known citizen has tendered the city, through the Chief Engineer, the lease of a lot on Russian Hill, at a nominal sum, for the purpose of erecting a bell tower thereon. The position is a commanding one having the whole city in view, and very favorable for sound, as the wind invariably blows towards the city. It is very well understood that the bell and belfry is becoming more and more insecure, and is actually hardly tenable. The Board of Supervisors should examine this matter at once, and either accept Mr. Johnson's offer, or select some other location and erect a suitable look-out.

SANBORN 3.—At the regular annual meeting of Sanborn Hook and Ladder Company No. 3, held at their house on Tuesday evening, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: R. N. Van Brunt, Foreman; W. T. Hoffman, First Assistant Foreman; J. C. Hewitt, Second Assistant Foreman; A. Maltbie, Secretary; J. W. Hayne, Treasurer. Mr. Van Brunt was formerly the popular foreman of Sanborn, but resigned for the purpose of engaging in business in the interior. Mr. Law, the retiring foreman, vacates the position with the good will and respect of his company and the entire Department.

VIGILANT 9.—The "Bostonian" which arrived on Thursday, brought the hose carriage of No. 9.—The boxes containing the carriage, were discharged from the ship yesterday, but on opening them, the iron work, etc., was found to be so much damaged that the package was immediately nailed up to await the action of the underwriters, an insurance to the amount of \$1,000 having been effected upon her. The claim will probably be adjusted in a day or two, when immediate steps will be taken to put her in order for service.

HOWARD 3.—The Howard Engine Co. No. 3 held their annual meeting on Wednesday evening, and elected the following gentlemen for officers for the ensuing year: Foreman, D. W. Crane; First Assistant Foreman, F. L. Tyler, Second Assistant Foreman, G. A. Davis; Secretary, P. M. Whitney, Treasurer, B. L. Schlösser, re-elected.

THANKS TO FISH & CO., Washington street, near Sanson, for numerous favors, among which is a full file of the N. Y. Shipping List. Copies of this valuable commercial paper may be obtained at their establishment, they being the sole agents.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

SACRAMENTO, March 4th, 1858.
Editor Fireman's Journal.—"I was there," I saw him last Monday; a person pointed out to me the editor of the Fireman's Journal. I improved the opportunity, and went and introduced myself. We immediately adjourned to Mr. B.'s private room at the Cottage House, and had a long talk. I was pleased to hear that my letters were satisfactory. How people are deceived in their ideas of the appearance of a person they never saw. I had pictured to myself a tall lean Pike about forty years of age; imagine my surprise then at finding Mr. B. a young sailor boy only nineteen years old.

The trial of Bishop for cutting hose was held last Saturday, and resulted in his acquittal; although Messrs Felch and Greenbaum swore they saw Bishop stoop down over his hose, and when he raised his body, the water gushed out. Bishop was probably cleared by the evidence of a boy fourteen years old, who swore positively that B. did not cut five's hose, but that it was done by a smaller man.

On Sunday night about 11 o'clock, fire was discovered in the cigar store of Strauss & Co., next to the corner of Third street, on J. Thresh's bell gave the alarm, and the whole department was soon on the ground and in service. The building being of brick and the air still, a very dense smoke hung over the block, leaving the impression that it was on fire above, and for nearly an hour it was drenched from top to bottom when the order was given to take up, it was found that the fire had not extended to the second story at all, and had done but very little damage to the building. The Chief was absent on a visit to your city. I could not help calling to mind the press-room fire in San Francisco, and wishing that this had been managed the same way; it would have saved the dept. many a cure from Mr. —, who had his furniture and the bedding of the old Merchant's Hotel, stored in the second story, and who estimates his loss solely by water at one thousand dollars. The company who are afraid of water, again testified their disapprobation upon a little falling upon them, by the free use of such expressions as s— of b—.

I hope the time will come, when such language will be discontinued. Mr. Strauss assured me that his loss amounted to \$10,000—insured for \$7,000, of which \$6,000 has been paid him. Engine One, I believe had first water from hydrant on Third street, Three next from hydrant corner Second and K, Five next from corner Fourth and K, Four next from hydrant on Second street, and Six from corner corner Third and K. Mutual One first ladders, Alert Two made big time coming down.

The Board of delegates held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, when all were present except Billings of Five and Smith of Neptune hose. The credentials of A. P. Osborne as delegate from No. Four, vice E. P. Hoyt resigned were received and the gentleman admitted to his seat. The Judiciary Committee to whom was referred the petition of Messrs. O'Brien and Shea, of Neptune hose, reported adversely and the report was accepted. Mr. Boruck entering the room at this time, was invited to take a seat in the Board. The Certificate Committee reported, and were authorized to contract with Messrs. Britton & Rey of San Francisco, for the lithographing of the new certificate, at \$300 for the first five hundred copies, and fifty cents for each additional copy thereafter. The amendment to the Constitution to save the cost of advertising meetings, rendering it incumbent upon the Secretary to personally notify members, was adopted. A standing committee upon applications for exempt certificates was appointed, consisting of Keenan, Rowland and Keenan, and a communication from Engine Three, recommending J. J. Smith as entitled to one, was referred to said committee.

Mr. Boruck informed me that there was a large crowd at the boat on Tuesday, to take a farewell of Messrs. Hoyt of No. Four, and Edwards of No. One, who leave for the Atlantic States to-morrow. Mr. Hoyt going to New York, and Edwards to Boston. You bet there was some cheering done. Isn't that an incentive to be an active fireman? such genuine expressions of friendship, would be more appreciated by me, than all the notices in the papers, and presentations of plate, &c., from interested parties.

No. Six held their monthly meeting in their new house on Monday last.

Alert Hook and Ladder No. Two held their meeting the same evening, and elected the following officers: A. C. Foley, President; M. Mann, First Assistant; P. J. Dimery, Second Assistant; G. W. Wallace, Secretary; E. Mott, Treasurer. The Company is bound not to retrograde when they have such officers, with Cummings for foreman.

A piece of advice to Sacramento firemen appears in the Union, which contains more truth than poetry. I expect it applies to other cities as well as here, and would advise you to copy it.

In haste yours, J. LINGOLAY.

Letter From Placerville.

PLACERVILLE, March 3d, 1858.
Editor Fireman's Journal.—Ever since the arrival of your paper up here last Sunday, the boys have been on the "alert" trying to ascertain who your correspondent is, but they will have a good time in so doing.

The boys turned out on Saturday to receive that "new engine" from San Francisco, about which Mr. Boruck telegraphed to a certain member of the Neptune. But no "machine" arrived; nor was there any person able to account for it. There must be a screw loose somewhere.

Since my last there has been a pretty good spread of look for some of our firemen up here. Your old friend Aleck Hunter has been elected City Marshal and Street Inspector, and Chief Engineer of our city. I think the Common Council acted very wisely in selecting the above named "hombies."

You made a serious typographical error in the concluding part of my communication last week. You made the word "dimes," read "mines," which caused a deal of discussion up here among certain persons, who hinted that your correspondent could not be very well acquainted with this "locale," as this section has been the best paying ground in the State.

I was very much surprised at the conduct of a certain class of individuals in Sacramento. I think they have had a sufficient amount of disgrace hanging over them already, without the one of insulting an editor of a public journal because he happened to take "sides" against the party for whom they had a choice. I venture to say that if they continue such conduct much longer, they will tend to bring disgrace on the whole Department. They are not content with committing the "insult," but must add "injury" thereto, by trying to cast the blame from their shoulders on to that of the firemen of San Francisco.

Yours, MAN ABOUT TOWN.

Fires and Alarms.

March 3d, 2 A. M.—Hall Bell, Second District; frame building, Pacific street between Dupont and Kearny; damage trifling. Cause, incendiary. Crescent 10 first water.

TIGER 14.—A grand Promenade Concert is announced to take place on Thursday evening next, at the Pavilion of the Mechanical Institute, in aid of Tiger Engine Company No. 14. It has been tendered by a number of the prominent citizens of the Seventh Ward, and we have no doubt will prove highly remunerative.

Board of Foremen.

A meeting of the Board of Foremen, was held at the Chambers of the Board of Delegates, Wednesday evening March 3d, 1858.

Present.—J. Cole, of Manhattan 3; J. E. Nuttman, of Knickerbocker 5; G. H. Hoffmann, of Monumental 6; J. C. Lane, of Volunteer 7; M. S. Neufus, of Pacific 8; J. Short, of Vigilant 9; A. Devos, of Columbian 11; F. Edwards, of Pennsylvania 12; C. Clapp, of Tiger 14; H. A. Cobb, of Lafayette 15; L. 2; R. N. Van Brunt, of Sansone H. & L. 3.

The President stated the meeting was called for the purpose of petitioning the Legislature to refund monies paid by Companies to stewards and also for a continuance of the payment of same, and proceeded to read the petition to be submitted.

After some discussion, On motion the Chair appointed H. A. Cobb, of Lafayette H. & L. No. 2, a committee of one to report to Sacramento to urge the adoption of an Act in accordance with the petition.

On motion the Board adjourned.

JACOB EZEKIEL, Sec'y.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE STATE FAIR.—We are indebted to Mr. George H. Sanderson, for a copy of the book bearing the above title. It contains 186 pages, filled with matter interesting to every citizen of California. We notice several well written essays upon various subjects connected with horticulture and agriculture, which are well worthy the attention of the head of the man and the farmer. The report of the Visiting Committee on farms, orchards, vineyards, &c., merits a careful perusal. Besides presenting a graphic picture of the various ranches visited by the committee, it contains the statistics of several counties, which are highly valuable for future reference.—Indeed this book, besides being a faithful report of the proceedings of a useful institution, contains enough of valuable matter to make it worthy of preservation, and entitled to a place in the library of every good citizen. It presents a most charming account of the condition of the first and most useful of all arts—agriculture, in our infant State. Those who have hitherto regarded California as a land only of mines and mountains, will find in the pages of this book, repeated and convincing assurances that they have been laboring under a grovelling mistake; witness the following extract:

"The adaptation of our country to agricultural pursuits, and the capacity of the soil for grain and fruit growing, seem to have been almost unknown until within the last seven years. We now find that the State contains about seventy-seven millions of acres suited to agriculture and grazing purposes, distributed as follows: forty-two millions adapted by nature to cultivation; five millions of tule lands, easily reclaimed, and thirty millions of grazing land. There are already under cultivation, five hundred and seventy-nine thousand acres, of which one hundred and sixty-three acres have produced three million nine hundred and sixty thousand six hundred and ninety bushels of wheat; one hundred and fifty-four thousand six hundred and seventy acres have produced four million six hundred and thirty-nine thousand six hundred and seventy-eight bushels of barley, and thirty-seven thousand six hundred and twenty acres have produced one million two hundred and sixty-three thousand three hundred and fifty-nine bushels of oats. There are, also, in the State, ten thousand six hundred horses, thirty thousand mules, six hundred and eighty-four thousand head of cattle, two hundred and fifty-three thousand sheep, one hundred and eighty-six thousand five hundred and eighty-five swine, and two hundred and sixty-six thousand three hundred poultry."

In view of the above statistics, no man who has a reputation worth risking, will hazard the assertion that California is not an eminently an agricultural as a mining country."

Letter From Oregon.

PORTLAND, O. T., Feb. 14, 1858.

Editor Fireman's Journal.—I was quite surprised on my arrival here, a few days ago, to find so well organized a Fire Department in this corner of the world. Being an old fireman myself, I assure you that I was pleased to find a couple of the machines here. The Department consists of the following companies:

Willamette Engine Company No. 1; they number some forty members; and have one of Smith's engines. Not having seen the apparatus, I cannot pass my opinion on her as yet. The company have a neat two-story frame house for their engine, a meeting room up stairs, furnished in true fireman's style. The engine room is well furnished and neatly papered, with the usual quantity of fire caps, belts, shirts, etc., hanging around the walls. They have a jumper, with 600 feet of hose on it, and I observe that they take the best of care of said hose; in fact everything connected with the company gives evidence that there are some old firemen in it.

Multnomah Engine Company No. 2 have a Hunneman engine, and number forty-eight or fifty members. They had a drill a few days ago, and for young firemen as they are, they did first rate. They drafted water from the river, played through 600 feet of hose over a bank of fifteen feet, and threw water through an 1 1/2 inch nozzle, 135 feet. Very good for new beginners. The engine, however, works hard; but I believe is as good a one of the kind as can be secured up here. They also have a jumper with 500 feet of hose. As yet the company have no suitable house for their machine, but intend to build one soon; at least, it is thought that the city fathers will open their hearts and pockets in the spring, and give them an appropriation for that purpose. I hope they will, for the company deserve it.

Vigilance Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 is a very efficient company. They have good firemen in regard to hooks and pins, and have lately got an appropriation to build them a truck house. I am not posted as to the number of members they have; but those who I am acquainted with are men in every sense of the word.

The Department is composed of some of Portland's best citizens, who take a great interest in fire matters in general.

In my next you will hear more from TONGUE PROTECTOR.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.—We are indebted to our distinguished representative Hon. Chas. L. Scott, for the message of the President, communicating a certified copy of the Constitution of Kansas, framed by the Convention assembled at Leocompton; the speech of Hon. A. H. Stephens, of Georgia, on the neutrality laws and the arrest of Gen. Walker by Commodore Paulding; the speech of Hon. W. S. Groves of Ohio, on Walker's expedition to Nicaragua, and a copy of the bill introduced by Mr. Scott, "to provide for the better security of the passengers on board of steamers navigating the ocean, propelled wholly or in part by steam," for which he will please receive our grateful acknowledgments.

Gun barrels, which were formerly welded upon mandrels, are now welded at one heat through a series of grooves in iron rollers specially adapted for the purpose. This, with other improvements has rendered the manufacture of rifles and other arms, at the present time, a matter of much greater certainty and security than at any former period.

Mr. Scott's Bill.

While our active and efficient Senator, Hon. W. M. Olin, has been bending all his energies towards the promotion of the greatness, wealth, and prosperity of his adopted State, by procuring the passage of the law providing for the construction of the Pacific Railroad, his colleague in the House has been engaged upon a no less praiseworthy object—that of providing for the better security of the lives of those who seek our State for the purpose of developing its manifold and inexhaustible resources. The bill introduced by him on the 20th of January, 1858, provides that all steamers navigating the ocean, and which have been duly registered according to law, shall be constructed with three water-tight compartments by cross bulkheads, one of which compartments shall inclose and be capable of sustaining the boilers and machinery; the communications or openings between said compartments shall be constructed in the centre of each bulkhead and near the floor, and of sufficient capacity or dimensions to admit the passage of a coal car; each said opening shall be furnished with a tight shutter or valve, which shall be controlled if necessary from the main deck, and to be constructed of metal not subject to corrosion. In addition to the usual pumps worked by steam, each compartment shall be furnished with two ordinary lifting pumps of sufficient calibre to be worked on the main deck by manual labor. All connections with openings in the bottom and sides below the deep water line to be encased in such a manner as to admit the passage of a person to examine them, and to be opened or closed if necessary from the main deck. There shall be at least two detached donkey-pumps, with engines and boilers compactly connected, and of small proportion, to be located on the main deck, forward and aft the engine room, entirely separate and independent of the main engine and deck pumps, and to be enclosed in pump wells sufficiently large to admit the passage up or down of a man for the purpose of cleaning them. That all steamers, in addition to their usual outfit, shall be provided with all necessary canvas, sails, and lumber for the construction of rafts in the event of a necessity therefor; and in addition to the usual number of deck buckets, shall be provided with at least fifty-five to be held in reserve in case of fire or breakage.—No steamer shall be permitted to carry more than one person to every ten tons of lawful measurement, and shall carry a certain number of life boats proportioned to her tonnage. That within the period of five years from the time of construction, every steamer constructed of wood shall have at least two planks removed from each side on the inside and outside of the vessel the whole length thereof, in such places as shall be designated by an inspector of hulks, for the purpose of examining her frames. Every commander shall have entire control over all persons employed or passengers on board his steamer, and disobedience to his orders to be held subject to the penalties provided in existing laws for the punishment of mutiny or revolt on board ships at sea. No supervisory or local inspector can be in any way interested in any vessel propelled by steam. The law to go into effect after the 1st day of July, 1858.

With the view of preventing in future the recurrence of so frightful a disaster as that of the Central America, we trust that the proposed law will meet that attention in Congress which its importance and merit demand.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—BOARD OF DELEGATES.—The Sacramento Union of Thursday, says: A regular meeting of the Board of Delegates of the Fire Department was held at the hall of Engine Co. No. 4, last evening, sixteen members being present. President Atkin presiding. H. P. Osborn was admitted to a seat in the Board as a delegate from Engine Co. No. 4, vice E. P. Hoyt, resigned. The Judiciary Committee submitted a report, confirming M. K. Smith and Alexander Badlam, Jr., as delegates from Hose Co. No. 1, the same having been contested by P. E. O'Brien and Roland M. Shea. The report was adopted. Mr. Boruck, editor of the FIREMAN'S JOURNAL, being present, was unanimously invited to take a seat in the Board.

The committee on exempt certificates reported, and were authorized to contract with Britton & Rey, lithographers, of San Francisco, to execute the same. The proposition of said firm is to lithograph five hundred copies of the design adopted, for \$600, and to preserve the stone for the use of the Department, charging fifty cents for each subsequent copy of the certificate. The amendment to the Constitution previously proposed, requiring the Secretary to notify members of the Board, personally, of all special meetings, which was adopted, to insert a provision in the Consolidation Bill, to secure to the Department the services of a watchman and a night porter, to be chosen from the several companies their present quarterly dues, \$50 each. The resolution was adopted. Mr. Keenan gave notice of his intention to submit, at the next regular meeting, an amendment to Article 3 of the Constitution of the Department, authorizing the appointment of two other standing committees—on Cemetery and Certificates. A communication from Engine Co. No. 3, recommending J. J. Smith as entitled to an exempt certificate, was read, and referred to the Certificate Committee, consisting of Messrs. Keenan, Rowland and Keenan. Mr. Aspell, of Engine Co. No. 3, was appointed on the Committee on Rules, vice L. Culver, resigned. The Board then adjourned.

FIRE PROOF PREPARATION.—We find the following valuable discovery recorded in a journal devoted to medical and pharmaceutical science: "The Emperor and Empress of France went recently to Neuilly to witness some experiments, conducted by M. Carteron, the inventor of a process for rendering wood tissues of all sorts, theatrical decorations, etc., incombustible. The experiments are reported to have been entirely successful.—Ladies' dresses, of the most gauze-like materials, were set fire to, and would not burn. An officer's tent, containing a bed with muslin curtains, resisted the application of numerous flaming torches.—A cottage, half of which was secured by M. Carteron's preparation, and the other half filled with straw, was set on fire on the unprotected side; the flames raged with fury, and consumed half the building, but the fire died away when it reached the prepared part, and left it altogether intact.—Likewise a theatre, with all its scenery, ropes and decorations, was attempted to be burnt in vain. Their majesties, who remained for upwards of an hour, expressed great satisfaction at what they had witnessed, and the Emperor gave 5000 to the workmen employed."

INJURED FIREMEN.—The members of the department who were seriously injured at the Pacific street fire, are slowly recovering. Mr. William Martin who had his collar-bone broken, has we understand sufficiently recovered to enable him to walk out for a short time during the late fine weather. The injuries to Mr. Cornell of No. 9, are more serious than were at first supposed; the doctors fear that the bones of the chin are injured; should such unfortunately be the case, it will be necessary to remove the broken pieces of bone, which will be terribly painful. Under the most favorable circumstances, a large scar will remain on Mr. O's face, disfiguring him for life. The injuries to the other members of the department were but slight, from which they have entirely recovered.

Theatrical and Musical.

MAQUIRE'S OPERA HOUSE.—The engagement of Mr. and Mrs. John Wood was concluded at the Opera House on Tuesday evening, and they leave for Sacramento to day. These talented artists have been more fortunate than almost any of their predecessors in maintaining their hold in the esteem of our play-going citizens. It usually happens that at the end of a fortnight, the excitement attending the appearance of new actors begins to decline; but in this instance the reverse has been the case, for after an unprecedented run of fifty nights, the attendance to witness these performers was as great on the last night as on the first. This is to be attributed to the fact that Mr. and Mrs. W. possess rare histrionic qualities and have not in a single instance failed to satisfy the highest expectation of their auditors. We are assured that but a little while will elapse before we may have an opportunity to welcome them back again, and a sincere and earnest welcome it will be.

On Wednesday evening, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Wallack made their first appearance, and their reception was certainly very gratifying, as the auditorium was filled to repletion. The play of the evening was "Macbeth"—Mr. Wallack sustaining the character of Macbeth, and Mrs. Wallack that of Lady Macbeth. Mr. W.'s representation of the ambitious Scot was a correct and elegant performance; and in the reading of the text, he elicited thoughts that would escape many close students of the "immortal Bard." Nor was Lady Macbeth rendered with less effect or correctness. Those scenes which are considered so difficult of rendition, and in which numbers of ladies have gained a world-wide renown, were given by Mrs. Wallack with an intenseness of feeling that thrilled every beholder, as the judiciously bestowed applause of the large assembly sufficiently attested. On Thursday evening, Knowles' adaptation of Beaumont and Fletcher's play of "The Maid's Tragedy" was presented, and on the succeeding night "Macbeth" was re-produced, and each occasion was a distinct triumph of these artists.

To night, Shakespeare's tragedy of Othello will be presented. Mr. Wallack enacting the principal character, with Mr. Booth as Iago and Mr. Smith as Cassio—Mrs. Wallack also taking a leading character. This is a very strong cast, and the performance cannot fail to be highly interesting.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wood leave to-day for Sacramento, where they will fulfil an engagement at the Forrest Theatre. They will be supported by Messrs. Courtaine, Deaves, Barker, and Thayer, Mrs. Judah, Miss Gratian, Mrs. Thayer, and the whole of the talented troupe who have been performing at the Opera House for fifty nights with unbounded success. Mr. Wm. Lloyd accompanies the troupe as Stage Manager, and from his long experience and matured judgment in matters pertaining to the stage, our Sacramento friends have reason to expect a series of plays gotten out with unusual taste and elegance. The theatre will open on Monday night with the scenic burlesque of "Hi-wa-tha," in the production of which Mr. Lloyd will have an ample opportunity to display his peculiar genius.

Edwin Booth is playing at Crisp's Gallies, New Orleans, to very good houses.—The Siamese Twins are exhibiting at Spalding & Rogers' Amphitheatre, New Orleans.—The French Opera at the New Orleans Theatre is drawing excellent houses, with Mons. Julian Ranch, Mademoiselle Paola, and Madame Colson being the stars of the troupe.—Ulli-Lilli, who has taken the name of the Light House, a new play written by Wilkie Collins has been brought out at Laura Keane's Theatre; Miss Keane, Mr. Wheatleigh, Mr. Burnett, and Miss Thompson playing the principal characters. Although a narrative piece, originally written for the drawing-room, rather than for theatrical performance, it has been quite successful.—Tom Taylor's dramatic "Victor of Wakefield" has been produced with success at Wallack's Theatre; Messrs. Vernon, Hoey, and Allen; Messrs. Blake, Norton, A. H. 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